

Message Text

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APPROVED BY S:THE SECRETARY

C:HSOHNENFELDT

EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN

PM:GSVEST

S/S:MR. BORG

DOD/ISA:HBERGOLD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012935

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, YO

SUBJECT MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO MINIC ON TOW ANTI-TANK WEAPON

TO THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY.

YOU ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK AN EARLY APPOINTMENT TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FEC/FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC:

1. THE SECRETARY IS PLEASED THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS ABLE TO VISIT HIM IN WASHINGTON LAST SEPTEMBER. THE SECRETARY PARTICULARLY APPRECIATES THE FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE OF THE DIALOGUE WHICH DEVELOPED THEN -- A DIALOGUE WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH PARTICIPANTS AND WHICH WE ON OUR SIDE WILL WORK ENERGETICALLY TO KEEP GOING.

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LY TO KEEP GOING.

2. THE SECRETARY TOLD THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON THAT HE WOULD GIVE HIM A RESPONSE TO THE YUGOSLAV REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE TUBE-LAUNCHED OPTICALLY-TRACKED WIRE-GUIDED ANTITANK WEAPON (TOW).

3. THE SECRETARY WISHES TO INFORM THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THE TOW AVAILABLE TO THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT THROUGH OUR FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROCEDURES. A LETTER SPELLING OUT THIS INFORMATION IS BEING DELIVERED TO THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOUR TOW LAUNCHERS WITH AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF MISSILES AND THE NECESSARY SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF FISCAL YEAR 1977 (WHICH BEGINS OCTOBER 1, 1976). THESE FOUR LAUNCHERS WILL COME FROM U.S. ARMY ASSETS. THE DELIVERY DATE FOR THE REMAINDER OF YUGOSLAV NEEDS WOULD DEPEND ON THE NORMAL PRODUCTION LEAD TIME FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THE YUGOSLAV ORDER FOR TOW IS PLACED. WE ARE ALSO OFFERING YOUR ARMY PERSONNEL EARLY TRAINING IN THE U.S. ON THE USE OF THE TOW WEAPON.

4. THE SECRETARY IS SURE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL SHARE HIS VIEW THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS IN THE MILITARY FIELD AND THAT IT SHOULD PROMOTE FURTHER COOPERATION FROM BOTH SIDES TOWARD THE COMMON GOAL OF STRENGTHENING THE FREEDOM OF ALL NATIONS FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. KISSINGER

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